

Message Text

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44

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ISO-00 /083 W

----- 065515

R 101252Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2678

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF: A. STATE 239025

B. BANGKOK 21303

C. BANGKOK 21399 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE WITH DR. THOMAS HOSKINS OCTOBER 9 ABOUT AMERICANS REMAINING IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. OF THOSE CITED BY PASTOR KOWLES (REF B), HOSKINS SAID JUDSON AND FAIGAN ALREADY HAVE EXIT VISAS AND ARE AWAITING PERMISSION TO DEPART. HE HAS IMPRESSION THAT SMITH AND POSNER BOTH HAVE EXIT VISAS AND HAVE BEEN LISTED ON PLANE MANIFESTS BUT DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE AT THIS TIME. TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE, THE OTHERS ON KOWLES' LIST DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE AND ARE NOT REQUESTING EXIT VISAS.

2. HOSKINS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PERSONS: (A) FRED GULDEN, WHO HAS EXIT VISA AND IS AWAITING PERMISSION TO LEAVE; (B) JOSEPH BRICKMAN, WHO IS RUNNING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SMALL CAFE (SUCCESSFULLY) AND HOPES TO STAY ON; AND (C)

STERLING BENNETT, WHO WAS IN JAIL FOR A CIVIL CRIME OF SOME SORT BUT IS NOW RELEASED AND IN SAIGON.

3. CONCERNING PRISONERS FROM BANMETHUOT, HOSKINS REPORTED THERE IS A RUMOR THAT THEY HAVE BEEN MOVED CLOSER TO SAIGON BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS UNCONFIRMED.

4. ON THE HOSTAGE THEORY, HOSKINS DOES NOT BELIEVE IT AND EXPECTS THAT MORE AMERICANS WILL BE COMING OUT SOON. HE AND MS. FORSYTHE HAD A LONG SESSION WITH AP SAME DAY AND REPORTEDLY MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT.

5. WE ALSO HAD MEETING OCTOBER 10 WITH FATHER JOHN TABOR (REF C), WHO IS CONVINCED THAT, WHILE SOME AMERICANS MAY BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE, MAJORITY--INCLUDING PRISONERS--ARE DEFINITELY BEING HELD AS HOSTAGES. HE BELIEVES THAT HE AND KOWLES, AS OBSERVERS OF THE INTERIOR SCENE, SIMPLY KNEW TOO MUCH FOR THE COMFORT OF THE COMMUNISTS AND WERE EXPELLED FOR THAT REASON. HE THINKS THE MAJORITY OF THE SAIGON AMERICANS ARE NOT AS DANGEROUS TO THE REGIME AND CAN BE SAFELY KEPT THERE. TABOR HAS HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THE BANMETHUOT PRISONERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO21581
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750353-0296
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751063/aaaacdxv.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DPW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 239025
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM
TAGS: CASC, VS, (JUDSON), (FAIGAN), (SMITH), (POSNER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006